

ECFS - Email Filing

<PROCEEDING>96-45

<DATE>02/08/2005

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<TEXT>I understand that there is a consideration of changing the rules for taxation of telephone use which will impose a flat tax on all users. As an individual who uses his telephone much less than the average, I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unnecessarily more expensive than it currently is. As the tax structure currently is, sometimes the state and federal taxes and "fees" are equal to or more than the cost of my telephone calls.

If I Understand it, the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I am a retired senior citizen and only make long distance calls to my children and grand children. My wired calls are limited in frequency and duration. Making me pay the same fee as those who are more able to afford the many long distance calls they make is unfair.

I use my wireless phone only for safety, security and convenience when travelling i.e. rarely. I don't want to lose these benefits so that others who make more calls users can pay a lower rate per call than I will under a flat tax. This seems like a means to penalize me because I don't make enough calls! I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

In the past I have questioned the whole concept of the USF tax. Now this latest proposed increase, if made a rule, will make it harder for the frugal user to keep his expenses down.

Sincerely,

Marvin Clinch
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